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LEAVES MEAN POISON IVY

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IDENTIFY

Identification and eradication are the keys to poison plant control. Poison ivy and oak plants grow in the form of (1) woody vines attached to trees or objects for support, (2) trailing shrubs mostly on the ground, or (3) erect woody shrubs entirely without support. They may flourish in the deep woods or on the most exposed hillsides. Plants are most frequently abundant along old fence rows and edges of paths and roadways. Although they grow in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors, poison ivy and oak leaves always occur in groups of three.

Leaflets Three, Let It Be—Common poison ivy leaf forms are shown along with waxy, white berries that usually grow in clusters on slender stems near the axis of the leaves. Virginia creeper is frequently mistaken for poison ivy, but can be distinguished by its five leaflets compared with the three of poison ivy. BN-24756



SMOOTH

ROUNDED ("LOBED")

TOOTHED



POISONOUS

WHITE BERRIES

POISON IVY



HARMLESS
ON CONTACT

BLUE BERRIES

VIRGINIA CREEPER

ERADICATE

June and July are the best months to eradicate poison ivy and oak plants from backyards, gardens, playgrounds, and other recreational areas. Chemical weed killers (herbicides) offer the easiest and safest method of control. Formulations containing 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T, amitrole, silvex or ammonium sulfamate are the most effective. Spraying should be done when there is little or no air movement, preferably in early morning or late afternoon when the air is cool and moist. Plants take several weeks to die and normally two or more applications are needed to completely kill a stand. When using a herbicide spray, follow directions on the label and observe all precautions for safe handling, use, and storage.

More detailed information on poisonous plants and their eradication can be obtained from your county Extension agent or by requesting single copies of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1972, "Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, and Poison Sumac," from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20401. Price is 10¢.



Eradication—A coarse chemical spray is applied to a shrub form of poison ivy. Keep spray away from ornamentals and other desirable plants. Gloves should be worn to prevent poisoning from accidental contact with the plants being sprayed. BN-24754



Poison Ivy Vine—The plant frequently attaches itself to trees, poles, fences, and even the sides of houses. The vines may be sprayed with amitrole without injuring the tree, but better results may be obtained by cutting the vine at the base of the trunk and spraying the regrowth. DN-523

Some photographs are produced here courtesy of University of Illinois College of Agriculture and Amchem Products, Inc.

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Use Pesticides Safely
FOLLOW THE LABEL
BE CAREFUL OF THE

IVY AND OAK SKIN POISONING STRIKES MILLIONS ANNUALLY

Poison ivy and poison oak plants grow in abundance in almost every part of the United States. Each year, these attractive looking vines and shrubs cause nearly 2 million cases of skin poisoning serious enough to require either medical attention or at least one day of restricted activity, or both. It is estimated that skin inflammations caused by plants are responsible annually for 3,730,000 days of restricted activity, half a million days spent in bed, and the loss of 333,000 work days. Although active, roaming youngsters are the most frequent victims, no age group and few individuals are immune.





Hikers, Beware!—A thick growth of poison ivy (foreground) along a forest path provides an ideal “classroom” for a lesson in poison ivy identification delivered by a teacher to her students during a spring nature study excursion. N-57282

Campsite Takes Toll—Workers spray a campsite to kill poison ivy sprouts in a grass area at Pennsylvania’s Valley Forge State Park several months prior to use of area. The power of poison ivy to cause mass illness or discomfort was illustrated when 18,000 Boy Scouts got skin poisoning during a jamboree here. Much of the poison ivy was in freshly mown grass. Some victims required hospitalization. BN-25175



